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EXAMINER

HIGA, BRENDAN Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/051,160

Applicant(s)

WENG, JEN-HWANG

Examiner

Brendan Y. Higa

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the application filed on January 22, 2002.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged.

3. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is April 13, 2001.

Drawings

4. The Examiner contends that the drawings submitted on January 22, 2002 are acceptable for examination proceedings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim 1 recites the limitation "A method for guide reading digital contents, comprising at least **the** steps of" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claim 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by England (US 6144991).

8. As per claims 1, England teaches presenting an article content (webpage) in an article window (frames) (col. 3, lines 66-col. 4, line 12 also see Fig. 4) of a container located at a user end (client system utilizes a convention browser, see abstract), the article content being a digitized document (web page) responding to an event (client requests a new session, col. 11, lines 34-35 and col. 12, lines 28-36); loading a guide reading content into the article window (col. 19, lines 36-56), the guide reading content including at least a guide reading event trace (shared pointer, col. 32, lines 31-41), the

guide reading event trace being linked to an intent guide reading portion of the article content (the shared pointer is designed to allow parts of web pages to be highlighted by any user of the session, col. 31, lines 57-65) and when guide reading the intent guide reading portion, the required guide reading actions in the container or in the article contents will trigger guide reading event trace comprising the information related to all of the guide reading events (piper server sends command to all connected clients, col. 32, lines 31-41); and loading a guide reading broadcasting mechanism (web guided tour) into the article window (col. 14, lines 37-64 and col. 22, lines 35-64), the guide reading broadcasting mechanism including at least an event triggering mechanism (launched when appropriate button or menu item is selected, col. 22, lines 35-45); wherein the event triggering mechanism of the guide reading broadcasting mechanism based on an intent guide reading portion designated by users in the article content searches and retrieves guide reading event traces linked to the intent guide reading portion (request file to be played is requested from director application, wherein the director application inherently invokes a search to retrieve the designated file, col. 22, line 65 - col. 23, line 5, also see col. 23, lines 46-48, wherein the director application checks to see if the requested file exists) and triggers the guide reading event traces according to event triggering time sequences in the article window (col. 14, lines 37-46 also see Fig. 24, col. 24, line 44 - col. 25, line 39 for time sequence and col. 22, lines 35-45, wherein a control window opens on the client browser to play recorded session).

9. As per claim 2 and 3, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the container being a software program stored in a computer readable storage medium (browser is a program, which is inherently stored on a computer readable medium, col. 3, lines 1-4).

10. As per claim 4, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the guide reading content further including at least a guide reading audio data linked to the intent guide reading portion of the article content (see col. wherein the session editor, col. 22, lines 17-21, can associate web pages and frames with sound and video files, col. 26, lines 12-18), and the guide reading broadcasting mechanism further includes an audio broadcasting mechanism located in the article window (control window, col. 22, lines 35-45) couple with the event triggering mechanism to trigger the guide reading event traces of the intent guide reading portion and to synchronously broadcast the guide reading audio data (synchronization is maintained between the HTML still frames and the video track or audio track, col. 26, lines 12-18).

11. As per claim 5, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches loading a guide reading recording mechanism in to the article window of the client system (see Fig. 24, and col. 22, lines 22-35, wherein the session can be recorded and edited by either the guide system or the client system),

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the guide reading recording mechanism including at least an event recording mechanism for recording the guide reading event traces (col. 8, lines 40 - 43).

12. As per claim 7, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the software program including an electronic book reading software program or a computer assisted instructions software program (see abstract, wherein the web browser is used to assist user of a website, read as a computer assisted instructions software program).

13. As per claim 8, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the software program being selected from the group consisting of a Web page browser (web page browser, see col. 3, lines 9-15), a document processing software, a spreadsheet (or trial balance) software, a database software, a presentation software, or an electronic mail software.

14. As per claim 9, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the guide reading recording mechanism further includes an audio recording mechanism to allow users synchronously recording guide reading audio data while recording the guide reading event traces (see col. 26, lines 12-18).

15. As per claim 10, England further teaches a server (piper server, Fig. 5, ref. 502) for providing online guide reading web page contents (col. 26, lines 20-29), comprising at least: a central processing unit (inherent); a communication interface for connecting a communication link (piper server connects to the guide system with the client system, col. 26, lines 20-29); a memory for storing the article content as described in claim 1 (piper server saves the currently displayed Web page and each current frame to synchronize clients wishing to join the session, col. 27, lines 24-31);

16. As per claim 11, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the guide reading content further including at least a guide reading audio data linked to the intent guide reading portion of the article content (see col. wherein the session editor, col. 22, lines 17-21, can associate web pages and frames with sound and video files, col. 26, lines 12-18), and the guide reading broadcasting mechanism further including an audio broadcasting mechanism located in the article window (control window, col. 22, lines 35-45) to couple with the event triggering mechanism to trigger guide reading event traces of the intent guide reading portion and to synchronously broadcast the guide reading audio data (synchronization is maintained between the HTML still frames and the video track or audio track, col. 26, lines 12-18).

17. As per claim 12, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches a guide reading recording mechanism (editor of a

director application, col. 24, lines 14-21) which includes at least an event recording mechanism to allow the server end to record the guide reading event traces (col. 8, lines 44-48) or through the communication interface via a communication link downloading into the article web page window at the user end to allow the user to record the guide reading event traces.

18. As per claim 13, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the guide reading recording mechanism further including an audio recording mechanism which allows the server end to synchronously record guide reading audio data while recording the guide reading event traces (see col. 26, lines 12-18), or through the communication interface via the communication link downloading into the article web page window at the user end to allow the user end to synchronously record the guide reading audio data while recording the guide reading event trace.

19. As per claim 14, England further teaches an apparatus (client system, Fig. 5, ref. 508) for guide reading digital contents, comprising at least: a central processing unit (inherent); a display device (see Fig. 9); a user interface (see Fig. 9); a memory (inherent) for storing the article content as described in claim 1 (see col. 7, line 65 – col. 8, line 8, wherein the remotely displayed frames are propagated to the client system, which are inherently stored in memory);

20. As per claim 17, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England the apparatus (client system) having a communication interface via a communication link for loading the content in the memory (piper server connects to the guide system with the client system, col. 26, lines 20-29)

21. As per claim 18, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the guide reading content further including at least a guide reading audio data linked to the intent guide reading portion of the article content (see col. wherein the session editor, col. 22, lines 17-21, can associate web pages and frames with sound and video files, col. 26, lines 12-18), and the guide reading broadcasting mechanism further including an audio broadcasting mechanism located in the article window (control window, col. 22, lines 35-45) to couple with the event triggering mechanism to trigger guide reading event traces of the intent guide reading portion and to synchronously broadcast the guide reading audio data (synchronization is maintained between the HTML still frames and the video track or audio track, col. 26, lines 12-18).

22. As per claim 19, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches a guide reading recording mechanism (see Fig. 24), which includes at least an event recording mechanism for recording the guide reading event trace (col. 22, lines 17-33).

23. As per claim 20, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. Furthermore, England teaches the guide reading recording mechanism further including an audio recording mechanism to allow the user to synchronously record the guide reading audio data while recording the guide reading event trace (see col. 26, lines 12-18 and col. 22, lines 23-33, wherein the guide or client can be involved in the recording session).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

24. Claim 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over England (US 6144991).

25. As per claim 6, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. England does not teach the computer readable storage medium includes computer assisted instructions (CAI) optical disks (read as a compact disc). However, at the time of the invention compact discs containing instructions for running a software system were well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to store the software system of England's invention onto a compact disc in order to distribute the software system on a reliable medium that allows for easy portability.

26. As per claim 16, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. England does not teach the client system including a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).

However, PDA devices were well known in the art at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the client system with a PDA to allow a user at a client computer with a mobile alternative for accessing a web page guide or specialist.

27. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over England (US 6144991) in view of Conboy et al. (US 6363418), hereafter referred to as Conboy.

28. As per claim 15, England teaches the invention substantially as claimed as noted above. England does not teach the client system including an electronic book reading device.

However, in the same art of client-server communication, Conboy teaches a viewing device (see Fig. 3, ref. 400, read as an electronic book reading device) for processing and displaying digitally encoded published materials (see col. 1, lines 5-11) accessed from the world wide web, wherein the display includes a web browser (col. 5, lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use the software system provided by England with a client systems operating on a electronic book reading to assists user in locating and reading electronic books located on the world wide web.

Conclusion

29. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Roberts et al. (US 6754693) teaches a method for allowing a plurality of parties to update the visual content of their browsers.

Fin et al. (US 6240444) teaches a method of sharing a web page between a plurality of clients.

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brendan Y. Higa whose telephone number is (571)272-5823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BYH



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER